REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. Claims 11-25 are newly added.

Claim 2 is amended to provide proper antecedent basis for "the user", and to remove figure label numbers; claim 2 is not narrowed in scope and no new matter is added. Claims 3-7 and 9-10 are amended for non-statutory reasons: to correct one or more informalities, remove figure label numbers, and to replace European-style claim phraseology with American-style claim language. These claims are not narrowed in scope and no new matter is added.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Suzuki (USP 6,313,745). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 2, upon which claims 3-10 depend, specifically recite a method and system that presents recommendations for a piece of clothing to a user, based on the user's updated clothing profile.

Suzuki teaches a system that recognizes merchandise taken into a fitting room by a customer, and notifies a store clerk of this information, along with a recommendation of other items of potential interest to this customer. Of particular note, Suzuki does not teach a system that presents this information to the user, as specifically claimed by the Applicant. Suzuki's system is a sales-aid; the Applicant's system is a users-aid.

Because Suzuki specifically teaches presenting recommendations to facilitate sales to a store clerk, whereas the Applicant specifically claims presenting recommendations to a user based on the user's clothing profile, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Suzuki.

With specific regard to claims 3 and 4, the Applicant claims forming a collection of subsets of plural pieces (claim 3), and eliminating unsuitable subsets from the collection (claim 4). Suzuki is silent with regard to forming a collection of subsets of pieces, and silent with regard to eliminating unsuitable subsets.

With specific regard to claims 6 and 7, the Applicant claims input means for inputting a purpose for which a piece of clothing was selected (claim 6), including

determining the purpose based on an appointment in an electronic calendar (claim 7). Suzuki is silent with regard to inputting the purpose of a user's selection, and is silent with regard to determining the purpose based on an appointment in a calendar.

With specific regard to claim 9, the Applicant claims rendering a representation of the selected piece of clothing to the user. Suzuki is silent with regard to rendering a representation of the piece of clothing, and silent with rendering the representation to the user.

In the interest of advancing prosecution of this case, the following remarks are provided with regard to newly added independent claims 11 and 16, upon which newly added claims 12-15 and 17-25 depend.

Claim 11 specifically claims a method that includes maintaining an inventory of apparel possessed by a user, and presenting a subset of apparel in the inventory that suitably forms an ensemble. Claim 16 claims a corresponding system.

As noted by the Applicant, choosing a set of apparel to form a suitable ensemble from amongst the totality of apparel possessed by a typical user can be a combinatorially challenging task, and the Applicant provides a method and system that eases this task for a user.

As noted above, Suzuki does not teach presenting recommendations to a user. Further, Suzuki does not address forming a subset of apparel suitable for forming an ensemble. Suzuki addresses identifying items based on items that a user brings into a fitting room, and/or based on items that a user has previously purchased. If the user brings a few skirts and a dress into the dressing room, for example, Suzuki's system will likely identify other skirts and dresses, as well as blouses, scarves, etc. that match any of these items. Although one or more of the items that Suzuki's system recommends may be suitable for forming an ensemble with one or more of the items that the user brought into the fitting room, Suzuki leaves the determination of such combinations/subsets to the user and/or the store clerk. In effect, Suzuki further complicates the user's combinatorially complex problem by increasing the number of items that can be combinatorially combined.